

NEWS RELEASE

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Help Shape the Future of Your National Forests

The Forest Service will be hosting the second round of Community Collaboration Workshops for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision. The first workshop will be in Burns, Oregon on October 13. Each workshop will run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

One focus of these workshops will be to discuss the proposed desired conditions that participants provided ideas for in the Round One workshops. Participants will engage in an activity designed to identify what needs to change to reach those desired conditions.

Participants will be given a packet of information to review during the first 30 minutes at each workshop before the presentations and activities begin. Several information stations will display current resource conditions, and information about the forest planning process and how public comments have been used. Revision Team members will be available to help participants as they review the information. The packet will include the consolidated proposed vision and desired condition statements that were developed using information collected at the first set of workshops in June and July and a worksheet for use later in the evening.

To allow participants time to review the materials before the workshops, information packets will also be available in early October on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/ and at local Forest Service offices, or by contacting your county commissioner.

"We received a lot of valuable information from over 300 people in the ten communities we visited in June and July," said Dave Schmitt, Team Leader for the four-year revision effort, "People also provided responses using our website and in letters and phone calls. We look forward to sharing what we have learned with participants in Round Two of these workshops."

The Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests are revising their Forest Plans. Forest Plans provide broad direction to the Forest Service about how to manage the natural resources on national forest lands. The three Blue Mountain national forests comprise about 5.3 million acres in northeast Oregon, southeast Washington, and west-central Idaho.

Through a series of Community Collaboration Workshops over the next year, the Revision Team is working collaboratively with local communities, state and federal agencies, and tribes across the Blue Mountains. The goal is to work together to develop a vision for the future management of the national forests of the Blue Mountains, create the building blocks that will be used in the new Forest Plans, identify the things in the current Forest Plans that are not working, and craft a revision proposal.

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Community Collaborative Workshop Schedule	
Community/Date	Location
Burns, OR October 13	Harney County Senior & Community Services Center 17 S. Alder St.
John Day, OR October 14	Malheur National Forest, Supervisor's Office 431 Patterson Bridge Rd.
Enterprise, OR October 19	Wallowa County Fairgrounds - Cloverleaf Hall 600 NW First St.
La Grande, OR October 20	Eastern Oregon University - Hoke Hall, Room 309 One University Blvd.
Baker City, OR October 21	Baker County Fairgrounds - Extension Building #2 2610 Grove St
Dayton, WA October 26	Columbia County Fairgrounds - Youth Building 105 Columbia County Fair
Pendleton, OR October 27	Convention Center 1601 Westgate
Heppner, OR October 28	St. Patrick's Senior Center 182 N. Main St.
Pasco, WA November 3	Franklin County Public Utilities District Office 1411 W. Clark St.
Portland, OR November 4	Doubletree Portland – Lloyd Center 1000 NE Multnomah St.

For more information, please contact Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist at 541-523-1332 or Dave Schmitt, Team Leader, at 541-523-1248. Up-to-date workshop information and materials are also located on forest plan revision website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/.

